News Notes

from the COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.
475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

addressed to those who are concerned with Christianity and Higher Education

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NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE DAY
April 16, 1961

Preparations for National Christian College Day should have been started sometime ago. In some areas plans are under way for radio and television promotion in addition to local church and campus activity.

We are interested to note that the special issue of "Information Service" (October 15, 1960) prepared as resource material has had the widest circulation of any issue of that organ since it started publication. Other materials still available:

"Information Service" - October 15, 1960 — 20¢ single copy, 4¢ each 100 or more
"Information Service" - January 9, 1960 — 20¢ single copy, 4¢ each 100 or more
"Information Service" - February 14, 1959 — 20¢ single copy, 4¢ each 100 or more
"The Christian Student" - an 8-page leaflet prepared for use by the American Baptist Convention and adopted for general use — 15¢ single copy, 10¢ each 100 or more

Reprints from the Christian Scholar:

Theological Foundations of the Christian College
The Relation of Church and Campus
The Christian College Today
The Christian College and American Higher Education
The Treasure and the Vessel

15¢ each, 10¢ each 100 or more

International Journal, a special issue - The Church and College, February, 1958
25¢ each, 20¢ each 100 or more

"The Church-related College" - an address given by Dr. Wilson Compton - 5¢ each

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
June 13 - 19, 1961
Conference Point Camp
Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

Lecturer for this Assembly will be Dr. Merrimon Cuninggim.
Theme: THE STAKE OF PROTESTANTISM IN HIGHER EDUCATION
Included in the six-day period will be meetings of policy bodies of the Units of the Commission and its Administrative Committee. In these sessions and additional workshops crucial issues and questions in the area of the church and higher education will be faced. Detailed announcements will be made later.

CONVOCATION OF CHRISTIAN COLLEGES
June 17 - 21, 1962
St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota

We announce this date and urge our college presidents to record it and start plans for the attendance of a delegation that includes students, faculty, trustees and administrative officers. Program and advance study plans are being developed around the general theme of the Protestant College in a Pluralistic Society.

At a recent meeting of the Central Committee of NSCF the following resolution was adopted regarding the film "Operation Abolition." NSCF

1) The National Student Christian Federation deplores the guilt by association implied throughout this film.

2) The National Student Christian Federation voices concern for the developing tendency of persons and groups within our society to limit freedom of speech and association. AND

3) The National Student Christian Federation requests the U. S. Attorney General's Office and a Special Committee of the House of Representatives, to review this film in order to render a decision concerning its true historical sequence and balanced narrative implications. THE

4) The National Student Christian Federation supports the right of its fellow Christians and others to protest against the Committee within the legal means available to persons in our society.

NCC

Subsequently after careful investigation the General Board of the NCC took the following action at its meeting in Syracuse, New York, February 22, 1961:

"The General Board of the National Council of Churches, having viewed the film "Operation Abolition"

MAKE

1) deplores the provocation that led to the disturbances, as well as the disturbances themselves, which occured in connection with the hearings;

2) reaffirms its opposition to and repugnance for Communism and the activities of Communist sympathizers and warns Christian Americans that in standing for their convictions, they not be confused by Communists or chauvinists; STATEMENTS

3) expresses the conviction that the film does not contribute to a realistic understanding of Communism and its dangers in the U.S.;

4) adopts the following statement:

ON

"BECAUSE there are many serious questions being raised by responsible citizens and organizations concerning the sale and showing of the film:"Operation Abolition," and

"BECAUSE of the effect of charges in the film reflecting adversely upon the reputations of students and upon their efforts to exercise active political concern in the future, and OPERATION

"BECAUSE of the effect upon freedom of expression which this film produces by its implication that criticism of the House Committee on Un-American Activities must be Communist-inspired, and

ABOLITION

"BECAUSE of Christian concern for truth and justice in all acts of all agencies of government,

The General Board of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. expresses its deep concern about problems raised in the conflicting reports regarding the film "Operation Abolition."

"1. It notes that evidence in the film and statements and articles by responsible newspapers, journals, and journalists and by various eyewitnesses point to the need for answers to such questions as the following:

a. What evidence, admissable in a court of law, links the Communists and alleged Communists named in the film with the students leading or participating in the demonstration?

b. What were the actual incidents of violence, and who were responsible for them?

c. What is the degree of responsibility of the students, police, Communists, and the House Committee on Un-American Activities in causing the regrettable incidents recorded in the film?

d. What is the legal status of the film subpoenaed by the Committee and now being sold by a private profit-making firm?

e. Are there errors of fact and interpretation included in the film as presently distributed?

f. What is the responsibility of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and of the House of Representatives itself, in respect to this film and the charges made in it against students and other citizens?

"2. Until objective and convincing answers to these questions are provided by proper authorities not parties at interest in the film and not participants in the events recorded in it, the General Board advises its constituent communions and their members NOT TO EXHIBIT THE FILM "OPERATION ABOLITION" IN CHURCHES UNLESS A FULL AND FAIR PRESENTATION OF SUCH FACTS AS ARE AVAILABLE RELEVANT TO THESE QUESTIONS IS PROVIDED BEFOREHAND AND REFERENCE MADE TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL'S STATEMENT.

"3. The General Board authorizes the publication and circulation of "Some Facts and Some Comments" on the responsibility of their respective authors as information helpful in a discussion of the implications of the film "Operation Abolition."

"(Some Facts and Some Comments" an analysis of the accuracy of the film is available from the Department of Life and Work, National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, New York - 50¢.)

COMMUNISM AND THE CHURCHES

This is perhaps a fitting place to refer to Ralph Roy's recent book, "Communism and the Churches." (Published by Harcourt Brace, Nov., 1960, 495 pp., $7.50.) Many church people are distressed by charges that Communism has invaded the Protestant Churches and the National Council of Churches. They would like to know if these charges are true. This book provides the answer. After several years of careful research financed by the Fund for the Republic, Ralph L. Roy, a Methodist minister, has written a factual and balanced report of the efforts of the Communist Party to use the churches for its own ends. Several conclusions are reached by the author:

1. The Communist Party in America was not interested in the churches at all until the latter 1930's.
2. Many church leaders, like those in other fields, were attracted to the cause of social and economic justice during the depression, and sometimes cooperated with Communist causes or organizations. The same sort of cooperation occured during the second World War, when Russia and the U.S. were allies.
3. All but a handful of these church leaders have repudiated any intent to aid or serve Communism, and many of them have been among the most effective opponents of Communist propaganda.

4. There have been about a dozen clergymen who have more or less consistently followed the "Communist Line" for twenty years or more. Whatever their motives, they have succeeded in discrediting and isolating themselves from American church life, and have never held responsible positions of leadership in any denomination or Council of Churches.
5. Most of the charges about "Communism in the churches" have been made by conservatives upset by some of the social and economic views expressed by church leaders and organizations. Their irresponsible charges have seriously stifled the voice of social criticism in the churches.

For responsible and reasonable church people this book will be a valued resource.

"Mr. Roy's book is very thorough and it is meticulously fair to individuals, especially to those whose relationships to Communist inspired organizations belonged to an earlier period or were incidental... The book will clear the air of much nonsense." - John C. Bennett, Union Theological Seminary.

PROTESTANTISM AND EDUCATION

We commend Dr. T. Wayne Rieman for his serious effort to participate in the current dialogue regarding the meaning, authority and ends of education as they relate to the Christian faith." In the foreword he says:

"This pamphlet begins with a brief statement of the Christian understanding of man. The remainder seeks to explicate some of the educational implications of a radically biblical view of man. It is argued that the major currents of education in America are not largely influenced by a biblical view of man or by a Christian perspective in education." ("A Christian Perspective in Education" - write to Dr. T. Wayne Rieman, Manchester College, North Manchester, Indiana.)

FRATERNITIES AND RACE

A New York Times news report says: "Washington State University will not recognize after September 1 any fraternity or sorority that imposes racial or religion restrictions on membership, its president, C. Clement French, announced today. All but three of the organizations have abolished such restrictions, he said." It is slightly embarrassing to read this as it is to read a Roman Catholic church statement that it will desegregate its schools "no later" than the state institutions. We can be grateful that there is sufficient Christian ethical influence in our culture to make this possible. But it leaves us with the dismal recognition that only by a wide stretch of the imagination can we say that our churches or church colleges are "leavening the lump" or leading the way. Encouraging reports indicate that fraternities at Stanford and Lake Forest are defying the national bodies.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

For new campus ministers who are in full-time positions - Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois, June 10 - 17. This will be a conference for serious study. The staff of the United Presbyterian Church USA has planned the program.

CONFERENCES

Part-time staff conference at Monmouth College, July 8 (dinner) to July 10.
Joint Campus Ministry Conference at Monmouth College, July 10 (dinner) to July 15.

A new magazine, "Challenge" dealing with higher education and the CHEC Campaign is being published by The American Baptist Convention. It will be published semi-annually in 1961 and quarterly in 1962. Joan Thatcher is the editor.

THIS CALIFORNIA EDUCATION!

"A sign on the paved parking area of Silver Strand State Park, which is between San Diego bay and the ocean, reads: 'Seagulls - Breaking clamshells on pavement is prohibited.' It was put up on order of a district superintendent of parks. The seagulls had been dropping clams on the pavement to break the shells, so they could eat the meat. Lewis Myer, assistant supervisor, insists fewer clams have been dropped since the sign went up." - (Bergen Record)

Hubert C. Noble